

STATE OF MAINE  
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Docket No. 98-537

March 12, 1999

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
Inquiry into the Information  
Needs of Standard Offer Providers

REQUEST FOR  
COMMENTS

WELCH, Chairman; NUGENT, DIAMOND Commissioners

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**I. SUMMARY**

Through this Request, we seek comments from interested persons on the report filed by Maine's Standard Offer Information Working Group entitled "Information Needs of Standard Offer Bidders and Providers."

**II. BACKGROUND**

On February 11, 1998, the Commission provisionally adopted Chapter 301 (Standard Offer Service) that governed the terms of standard offer service for electric generation and established a methodology for selecting standard offer providers.<sup>1</sup> Sections 6(A), 6(B)(1) and 6(B)(2) of Chapter 301 identify likely data that standard offer bidders should receive to ensure the lowest-cost bids. Section 5 identifies data format. However, through the Rule, the Commission recognized that further thought must be given to the precise content and format of the data. Accordingly, in Section 6, Chapter 301 directs that a proceeding be opened to determine the scope and detail of the information provided to standard offer bidders.

On August 19, 1998, the Commission issued a Notice of Inquiry in Docket No. 98-537 (Inquiry into the Information Needs of Standard Offer Providers). The Notice stated the Commission's intent to examine the scope of information that transmission and distribution utilities should provide to potential standard offer providers and to actual providers on an ongoing basis and to precisely define how that information should be calculated.

In the Notice, the Commission initiated a statewide working group to define the data and to determine calculation methods. To inform the group's decisions, the Notice requested comments from interested persons on questions concerning customer usage data and undercollected revenue treatment. The Notice directed the working group to present its recommendations in a report to the Commission. The Commission's intent was to consider the report, to allow input from interested parties, to direct changes if necessary, and to adopt the resulting report contents. As stated in the Notice, the

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<sup>1</sup>The Rule was finally adopted on April 22, 1998 after legislative review.

Commission will further address issues that the working group is unable to resolve through consensus.

On November 19, 1998, the Commission issued a Request for Additional Comments that further investigated the treatment of costs associated with late or uncollected bill payments.

The Standard Offer Information Working Group met twice and developed its recommendations through collaboration. The Working Group consisted of Bangor Hydro-Electric Company, Central Maine Power Company, Dirigo Electric Cooperative,<sup>2</sup> Energy Atlantic, Great Northern Paper, the Maine Public Utilities Commission Staff, Maine Public Service Company, and MainePower.

On March 10, the Working Group filed its report, entitled "Information Needs of Standard Offer Bidders and Providers."

### **III. REQUEST FOR COMMENTS**

Through this Request for Comments, we seek comments from interested persons on the report entitled "Information Needs of Standard Offer Bidders and Providers." After considering the report and the comments, we will either adopt the report or direct changes. We will issue our conclusions by May 15, to allow transmission and distribution utilities to submit the data on June 15 for inclusion in the standard offer bid package.

Interested persons may send comments by March 30 to:

Dennis L. Keschl, Administrative Director  
Maine Public Utilities Commission  
242 State Street, 18 State House Station  
Augusta, Maine 04333-0018

Dated at Augusta, Maine this 12th day of March, 1999.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION

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Dennis L. Keschl  
Administrative Director

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<sup>2</sup>Dirigo members are: Eastern Maine Electric Cooperative, Fox Islands Electric Cooperative, Houlton Water Company, Kennebunk light and Power District, Madison Electric Works, Swan's Island Electric Cooperative, and Van Buren Light and Power District.

COMMISSIONERS VOTING FOR:      Welch  
   Nugent  
   Diamond